

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0907

March 24, 2023

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for STAG – Clean Water State Revolving Fund in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is Seminole County Government located at 1101 East 1st Street, Sanford, FL 32771.

The funding would be used for provide sanitary sewer access to 149 homes located within the Wekiva Priority Focus Area (PFA) identified by the Wekiwa Spring and Rock Springs Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP). As noted in the BMAP, the PFA represents the area in the basin where “the aquifer is most vulnerable to inputs and where there are the most connections between groundwater and the springs,” thereby making this septic-to-sewer conversion a top priority for the County.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because this septic-to-sewer project extends access to public sanitary infrastructure for homes currently served by onsite sewer treatment and disposal (septic) systems. This project area consists of 149 homes located within the Wekiva Priority Focus Area, included in Seminole County’s “Septic Tank Remediation Pilot Program and Community Support Study,” crafted in response to the County’s nutrient reductions identified in the FDEP Wekiva BMAP.

This project will reduce the amount of nitrogen reaching the Wekiwa Spring and Wekiva River watershed caused by septic systems. Excess nitrogen above the regulatory standards is a major contributor to harmful algal blooms, which negatively impacts recreation, water quality, and natural ecosystem of the Wekiva River, an Outstanding Florida Water and federally designated Wild and Scenic River. Additionally, the successful implementation of this pilot will lead to long-term execution of a countywide program that will reduce nutrients and benefit all receiving waterbodies in Seminole County.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Title VI of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1381 et seq..

Additionally, this project has been identified as part of the FDEP Wekiva Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP). The nitrogen reduction goals for this and the subsequent septic to sewer projects within the Wekiva BMAP Priority Focus Area (PFA) will help to meet the Wekiwa Spring Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), as required by the Clean Water Act.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Cory Mills
Member of Congress